Café Gratitude is also committed to sustainability in all its aspects. Also, since it's an urban restaurant, I get to serve people from all walks of life, and sometimes from other parts of the world.

Anna Lisa: Though you are brand-new to the GWP steering committee, because you bring not only a commitment to the values of GWP (simplicity, equality, women's empowerment), but also because you live these values out in your daily life with compassion, enthusiasm, and creativity. What excites you about participating in the leadership of GWP?

Anna Lisa: Tina, we're delighted to have you on the GWP steering committee, because you bring not only a commitment to the values of GWP (simplicity, equality, women's empowerment), but also because you live these values out in your daily life with compassion, enthusiasm, and creativity. What excites you about participating in the leadership of GWP?

Tina: Being asked to be on the committee was a great honor. I'm delighted to be working so closely with other inspiring leaders in the Church of the Brethren, namely you and the other committee members. I am also glad to be learning more about the work of the women whose projects we support. In my day-to-day living, I sometimes feel out of touch with the global community, so I'm grateful to make some connections there.

Anna Lisa: You grace the tables of sustainability-conscious diners in the Bay Area in your day job. How does your work with GWP complement your work with Café Gratitude?

Tina: GWP is about empowerment – specifically of women. Café Gratitude empowers all people to create the life they want to live. We do that by inviting people to be grateful and to choose an abundant outlook on life.

Exploring women’s lives in Chile, by Emily

From the end of August until mid-December of 2012, I had the amazing privilege of studying abroad in Valparaíso, Chile, to start off my junior year of college. Valparaíso is a vibrant city, with colorful houses lining the hills, beautiful views of the ocean, and creative murals and graffiti covering the streets. I loved exploring each day, finding new favorite places, foods, and people!

During the last month of my program, each student was required to do an independent study project, all in Spanish, on a topic of his or her choice. For my project, I interviewed middle class women about how they feel that menstruation is viewed in Chilean society. My research focused specifically on the discourses that the women used to talk about their bodies, their experiences at menarche, and how they...
Interview with Tina, continued

steering committee, you have years of experience with the values and vision of GWP, including through the work of your parents, Louie and Phil Rieman. Your mom even served on the GWP steering committee herself. Are your parents present to you in this work?

Tina: Yes, they are very present to me. I was generally aware of GWP as I grew up, but it wasn't until my mom served on the committee (2003-2006) that I really learned more about what GWP does. My parents lived in Sudan and worked for peace there for many years, so it's neat to be connected to their African sisters and brothers there. Not only does it connect me to my parents, but it also connects me to my Brethren roots, which is neat. (There is no Church of the Brethren congregation where I live, so I'm a member of the First Mennonite Church of San Francisco.)

Anna Lisa: What have you been surprised to learn about GWP?

Tina: I am surprised by the large impact of such a small group of globally aware people. GWP (the committee and its supporters) has such a big heart and such a small budget. It amazes me what we do with just donations, mostly from individuals. The projects we support seem to do so much with what some of us would consider so little.

Anna Lisa: I know you have been a faithful donor to GWP, particularly through the Luxury Tax. Can you tell us about your Luxury Tax experience?

Tina: In the spring of 2003 I travelled with my mom to her first meeting as a part of the GWP steering committee in Elgin and visited friends while they had their meeting. There was a GWP presentation at Highland Avenue CoB, and it was there that I learned about the Luxury Tax. (Based on the fact that we have so many luxuries that many of the people of the world don't have, we self-impose a tax on one of those luxuries and donate that money to GWP.)

Thanks to that presentation, I decided to tax myself 25¢ per shower for the luxury of having running water. I had recently gone on a camping trip, and showers were hard to come by. Not every campground had showers, and if they did, they weren't always free. One time I had to pay 25¢ for 5 minutes of water. I confess that it felt unfair, in the moment, to be charged for such a basic thing as a shower, but I eventually decided it was worth it, so I put my quarter in.

The conversation at that GWP presentation reminded me of what a luxury running water is. So, I began to put a quarter in a jar every time I showered. It's now almost ten years later, and I'm still doing my shower tax! Every time I write a check to GWP, I'm aware of how grateful I am for the luxury of running water.

Each of your small gifts add up to huge changes in women’s lives around the world.

The projects we support seem to do so much with what some of us would consider so little.
Global Links

Growing Grounds

In June 2012, Lizz Schallert, MSW and Development Assistant for On Earth Peace, joined Wabash, Indiana’s Growing Grounds as a volunteer beginning an eight-week trauma healing support group at the jail. Ten to thirteen women inmates participated in the weekly class, each bringing unique encounters with domestic and/or partner violence.

Lizz incorporates undoing oppression resources into her trauma healing work to bridge the gap between societal/cultural violence and personal violence.

She started another eight-week group this November and intends to continue her classes in 2013. The need to address domestic violence at the jail sprang out of the Participant Intake Assessment that Growing Grounds administered in 2009-2010 (funded by GWP). Of the 63 women surveyed at the jail, 40% said they have experienced physical abuse or neglect. These classes are a way for Growing Grounds to address this need.

Shifting Ideas Through Education for African Women

For the past nine years, GWP has partnered with SITEAW, Inc., a program dedicated to keeping girls in school and supporting women in starting their own small businesses, while working to bring an end to several long-held east African tribal traditions which are oppressive and life-threatening to them. These traditions include female genital mutilation, sanctioned physical and sexual abuse, the premature marriage of young girls in exchange for large dowries, and the inheriting of women.

Sister Stella Sabina, our dear friend and contact person for SITEAW, asked us to share the following with you, our readers and supporters:

We are very grateful for all the love and generosity extended to our girls. This being a circumcision year, the threat level was high. The joy we have now is that our girls in the program are safe and our representatives in Uganda have also been able to talk to many parents about the dangers of circumcision and premature marriage. All the parents they talked to spared their girls from circumcision. That is a score on our side; it helps us to buy time and think of ways to help the young girls we have not been able to sponsor in school due to lack of funds.

Two of the girls we have in school sat for their Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE). We hope we will be able to continue pushing them forward to high school.

We are asking for more prayers so that the Good Lord may help us to find the funds to continue sponsoring the girls we already have in school.

We have not been able to raise enough money to start building SITEAW Center in Uganda, a place we hope will be a refuge for the girls and to enable us to offer youth programs, counseling, young women skill programs and to coordinate both local and International volunteers. It is an urgent need; I sleep on my knees asking God to open this door.

We at GWP are inspired and heartened by Sister Stella, a woman who has tirelessly devoted her life to improving the welfare of our sisters in Uganda.

More project updates on page 5!
2012 Financial Report

GWP’s work is 100% donation and volunteer-based. The GWP Steering Committee wishes to thank all of you who have faithfully supported our partner projects as well as our educational efforts through your generous donations to GWP over the past year. With your continued support, we are able to carry out our mission of working to alleviate poverty, oppression and injustice endured by women throughout the world.

Summary of GWP finances from January 1, 2012 through November 30, 2012:

$10,220.06  Balance on January 1, 2012

$12,045.76  2012 Donations as of November 30

$22,265.82  Funds for GWP Work in 2012

-$ 7,500.00  Grants to Support 5 Partner Projects

-$ 2,424.43  Educational Expenses

-$ 2,383.60  Travel Expenses

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Celebrating Barbara Anna Roller Smith

As Globalinks was going to press last year, we learned of the death of one of our global sisters, Barbara Anna Roller Smith, to whom we wanted to pay tribute and honor in this year's edition.

Global Women's Project celebrates the life, work and memory of Barbara Anna Roller Smith, formerly of North Manchester, IN. Barbara was a lifelong member of the Church of the Brethren who dedicated herself to her family, her church, her local community and to the world.

In 1987-1988, Barbara and her husband, Bill, volunteered a year of their lives to travel throughout the country to educate people about the work and mission of GWP. With slides in hand from their travels to Costa Rica and Bangladesh, Barbara and Bill shared of their experiences and educated others about what they had learned about the connections between poverty and oppression and wealth and privilege and their impact on women around the world. They met with 84 congregations throughout their year-long tour, strengthening and expanding support for the work of GWP in an unprecedented way.

We are grateful for the life of Barbara and the invaluable contribution she made to GWP and to women throughout the world. Her gracious and generous spirit will not be forgotten.

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2013 marks 35 years since Ruthann Knechel Johansen delivered her speech, Giving Birth to a New World—the impetus for what has become Global Women's Project. Throughout this year, we will reflect on the work of GWP and celebrate the many women who have carried the vision Ruthann challenged us to pursue. Please join us in our celebration as we share information through our monthly Global e-Links as well as stop by our booth at the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Charlotte, NC, June 29-July 3.

The sewing cooperative (partner project since 2010) is going well. The tailor training program accommodates women's schedules so they can learn new skills at times that are convenient for them. One woman says: "We are very grateful. This is the best way of empowering us women who missed access to formal education in order to get employment. With zero education, I am now able to learn practical skills that I can earn a living peacefully without much struggle because I will be my own employer. I love that! Thank you and God bless you all."

Gladys Dommy Mananyu, our liaison, writes this: "I also would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our friends of Global Women's Project and New Community Project for their innovative approach in empowering women for positive change that I could see in these resilient women despite unprofitable economic background in their respective family lives. The gift of touching lives in God's

Emily in Chile, cont.

explained menstruation to their own daughters. What I found was that menstruation is a pretty taboo topic there, and that the conversations that do exist focus on the biological process and don’t include a discussion of emotions or personal stories. Many of the women I interviewed didn’t feel they could talk to their mothers about their periods, but once they had children of their own, they tried to make it an open and positive topic of conversation. The women believed that things were beginning to change in Chile, but that there’s still a lot of work to be done to make women proud of their bodies and their natural processes.

One of my favorite interviews was with a woman who works with girls and women of all ages to get to know their bodies and to openly discuss menstruation. Through art and theater incorporating indigenous traditions about menstruation and the moon, her project educates girls and celebrate their bodies. Her passion for aiding all women in rediscovering themselves and taking pride in being a woman reminded me of GWP and our goals of empowerment with women around the world. Though my research occurred in Chile, I know that similar results have been found in many countries around the world, including the United States. In the days ahead, I encourage you to think about the women in your life and around the world, and about the importance of conversations about menstruation and women’s reproductive health.

Southern Sudan Sewing Cooperative

Public art in Chile
Living in solidarity with women throughout the world by supporting grassroots projects that are led by, empower, and benefit women and their communities

Send your contact info to us and we’ll send GWP to you!

Name

Address

Email

Add me to the monthly Global e-Links list.
Add me to the annual paper Globalinks mailing list.
Send me the Lenten calendar one day at a time by email.
Send me a Lenten calendar by mail.
Contact me about memorializing a special woman through GWP.
Contact me about other ways I can connect with GWP.
Enclosed is my donation to continue the work of GWP!

Print more newsletters from our website and fill a 2nd form out for your church or women’s group!

Return this form and your donation to GWP’s partner projects in the enclosed envelope!

Calendar of 2013 GWP Events

Throughout the year, there are many ways to support the work of GWP. Mark your calendars to participate in the way that excites you!

January: Lenten Calendar time—find yours from last year or order a free one. Our Lenten Calendar is a daily spiritual tool to guide you through the season. E-mail us at info@globalwomensproject.org and we’ll send you a calendar (or multiples for your faith community/group) or to register for our daily Lenten calendar e-mail. Lent begins on Feb. 13 this year.

April/May: Begin thinking of the women you would like to honor on Mother’s Day through our Mother’s Day Project. Donate in honor of someone and we will send that person a lovely card, letting them know you have honored them with a gift to GWP.

Early July: Annual Conference GWP Tea Time. Also stop by the booth for any new educational resources for your family, congregation, or women’s group, especially the Children’s Giving Project curriculum.

Anytime/birthdays/holidays: To celebrate a special day or the everyday, find beautiful cards with photos from our partner projects at globalwomensproject.org and click on “gifts.”

And always: Global e-Links – Join our growing community and connect with this monthly e-newsletter. E-mail us at info@globalwomensproject.org to get on our list. And like us on Facebook!